

Morton County Fair Board Minutes

August 19, 2025

7:00pm Morton County Fairgrounds

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm central time by board President Shawn Feiring.

Directors presented: Peggy Brandt, Shawn Feiring, Robert Boehm, Luke Dukart, Thomas Friesz, Brooke Kunz, Trina Gress and Annie Gartner

Zoom: Jaden Russell- Extension Agent for Morton County

Associate Members presented: Amanda Noel

Guest: Don Lafleur- MCF Accountant, Russ Voight and Margo Kunz- 4-H Council

Custodial Report: no report

Additions/Approval of Agenda: Robert moved to approve agenda, Peggy 2nd motion passed

Secretary's Report: Brooke made the motion to approve minutes as presented, Robert 2nd, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: In the checking account per bank \$81,585.58, Savings Account per bank \$29,832.68. Loan balance is \$287,605.11, next payment due 12/26/2025 (\$27,498.81).

Don let the Board know that we had received the rest of our money from the county.

Luke made the motion to approve the treasurer's report presented, Brooke 2nd motion passed.

4-H Report: Jaden said they sent an out a 4-H survey for Achievement Days, and if anything comes up pertaining to the fair he would let us know. They are getting the invoice ready to send to Don for 4-H premiums, should be done by end of the week.

Bills to pay: Shawn purchased 2 fans for the entertainment building and light bulbs for the static area. Luke approved to reimburse Shawn for the fans and light bulbs, Thomas 2nd, roll call vote; Peggy-yes, Thomas-yes, Trina-yes, Brooke-yes, Luke-yes, Robert-yes, Shawn-yes, and Annie- yes, motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Amusement & Youth Activities: no report

Beer Garden: no report

Camping: Sold every spot that we had, went well. During slack both entrances to the camp ground were blocked, need to look at different options may have to limit the number of trailers parked on the grounds.

Capital Improvements: no report

Facility Maintenance: Peggy presented a list of items for the committee to look at, the stove in the kitchen is having some issues, stove burners will not light, she did try it tonight not working right, cannot regulate the heat on the griddle and left side of griddle will not light. Will need to have Capital City Restaurant come out and look at it. Is there a way to add more outlets above the prep area? Another item was to invest in a bigger fridge for the kitchen. In the entertainment building need to add more lights in the middle part along east wall. Horse barn he west garage door does not stay up and in the campground along south fence, east end need to fill in or something so it is not such a drop off.

Thomas said he received the insurance check for the strap on the horse barn, he and Peggy are looking for someone to fix it.

Country Fest: no report

Gate & Parking: Annie presented two ideas for parking, security suggested the ends on the senior parking lot have portable panels, lot easier to see. On the west side of the pulling track ideal was given to me to make that a canopy area, mark out 20' spots and charge so much a reserved spot, Annie is working on getting this mapped out with details.

Music & Small Acts: Annie presented a short summary of events during the fair, Myra Klein art lady had 79 kids during the 3 hours she was here, She is booked for next year's fair July 31st 1-3pm. Talked about having Magic Joe come back, I sent an email with dates waiting to hear back. Ward will not charge us for his service (he books our bands) told me appreciates us and honestly does not want anything. He will start looking for a band for August 1, 2026 after discussion board decided to bring Slamabama back, Annie will contact Ward tonight. Wade (sound guy) has the dates for next year's fair, will do the sound for both pulls and the band. DJ Patrick Remington will be back next year July 31, 2026 same price and time frame as this year. Colleen, Clarence and Leon will do the church service and gospel hour next year on Sunday, I will email her the dates.

Robert let the board know that during the hypnosis show the rodeo sound system interrupted the act, looking at getting quotes from different companies to foam the east wall.

Public Relations & Advertising: Thank yous are ready to go out. Board will put them together at our September meeting. Thank you Trina for getting the letter ready.

Rodeo/Draft Horse Competition/Ranch Rodeo: Ranch rodeo was a huge hit, working on getting more sponsors for next year. Both rodeos went well.

Power Pull: Had a lot of good comments about moving the Antique Tractor Pull to Friday night, had 26 tractors enter the event. Power pull on Saturday night went well, participants like the portable panels between the primitive camping and the pit, also liked that there was more spots for parking because there was no camping allowed in the pit area.

Competitive Events/Awards: Trina said the open class statics went well have a few things need to work on for next year, one thing is having more space for the exhibits.

Commercial Exhibits/Concessions/Vendors: Annie stated we were down two food vendors, one food vendor had family emergency and will be refunded their fee, and other one could not make it. Looking at getting a different Asian food vendor. Also working on spreading the food vendors out. Inside and outside vendors went well, few things working on for next year. Did have two vendors not make it due to personal reasons, they will be back next year.

Security: Jon with security said the fair went very well, nothing major happened just a few minor things. Annie will email the dates for next year's fair to him. Jon also stated that they really enjoy coming out and like seeing the improvements that the board continues to make. This event is a highlight for them.

New Business:

Fair Survey- Peggy went thru the fair survey, there are things to improve on but overall had a lot of good comments on the fair. Shawn also stated he was told a lot of good compliments as well, thank you for everyone's hard work for putting on a very successful fair. Thank you Peggy for setting the survey up.

Heartland Association of Fairs- conference is November 20-22, 2025 in Huron, SD. Early bird registration closes on November 5th. Let the Board know at the September's meeting if you are interested in going.

Thank You's-

Action Motor Sports (use of side x sides) - meat/cheese tray, thank you

Gooseneck of Elgin (tractor & mini loader) -meat/cheese tray, thank you

CHS SWG of New Salem (grill for Sunday's dinner) – meat/cheese tray, thank you

Morton County Parks- thank you

New Salem Ambulance- \$1,000.00 & thank you

New Salem Fire Department- \$300.00 & thank you

New Salem Saddle Club- \$1,000.00 & thank you

Mandan FFA - \$500.00 & thank you

New Salem FFA- \$3,000.00 & thank you

Sims Valley LLC (use of equipment) - free camping spot 2026 & thank you

Russ Hoovestol (working arena)- thank you

Missio Church (inflatables) - \$2,000.00 & thank you

Rud's Corporation- 5 meat/cheese trays (1 for each business place) & thank you

Dakota Community Bank & Trust- meat/cheese tray & thank you

Civic Club- meat/cheese tray & thank you

Brandon & Dixi Rusch (use of loader) - \$500.00 & thank you

ND Safety Council (safety trailer) - thank you

Jamie Friesz, Kristine Koeplin, Bridget Kuntz, Anita Hoger, and Kristie Klusmann- each one to receive a thank you.

Independent Land Survey & Engineering (use of skidder) - meat/cheese tray & thank you

Ward Hilger (books our bands) - thank you

Peterson Fencing, LLC (use of portable panels, and use of property to park trailers) - meat/cheese tray & thank you

Trina made the motion to approve the thank you lists, she amended her motion to add Independent Land Survey for use of skidder and give them a meat/cheese tray

New motion- Trina made the motion to approve the thank you list and to add Independent land Survey for use of skidder & to give them a meat/cheese tray, Thomas 2nd roll call vote; Peggy- yes, Thomas-yes, Trina-yes, Brooke-yes, Luke-yes, Robert-yes, Shawn-yes, and Annie- yes, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on changing the meeting date, after some discussion was decided meetings will be the 1st Monday of the month,

Next meeting: September 1, 2025 at 7:00pm at the fairgrounds in New Salem.

Brooke made the motion to adjourn, Peggy 2nd motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm central time.

Submitted by Annie Gartner, MCFB Secretary: Signature Annie Gartner Date 9-1-2025
MCF Secretary